

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for peroperative cleansing of the colon, the apparatus comprising a cylindrical body for irrigation with a cleansing liquid its distal end having a strainer, means for loosening solid fecal matter, and means for sucking up the cleansing liquid and the loose fecal matter, the apparatus being characterized in that the cylindrical irrigation body comprises:
- two flexible coaxial tubes (2, 3) having the length of the colon and separated by a gap (4), the outer tube (2) being adaptable to the shape of the colon, the inner tube (3) serving for draining the cleansing liquid and the fecal matter, and the gap (4) between the two tubes providing a passage for the cleansing liquid; and
 - a rigid toroidal part forming an introducer element (1) having sealing membranes and attached to the colon, and in which the two coaxial tubes (2, 3) slide.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the inner tube of the cylindrical irrigation body carries at its distal end a strainer (5) having a mechanical sweeping device.
3. An apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that the inner tube (3) includes a rotating device for grinding fecal matter.
4. An apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the grinding appliance is a rotary knife (6) having a central drive shaft (11) and pressed against a grid (9).
5. An apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that the strainer (5) is a flexible cylindrical body terminated by a spherical cap, having a total length lying in the range 6 cm to 10 cm and with numerous circular or oval holes (8), the first hole being located

at a distance lying in the range 2 cm to 3 cm from the knife, the diameter of the holes increasing in size from 2 mm to 15 mm on going from the proximal portion to the end of the strainer.

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6. An apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that the outer tube (2) has an outside diameter lying in the range 18 mm to 24 mm, the inner tube (3) has an inside diameter lying in the range 12 mm to 18 mm and the
10 strainer (5) has an outside diameter lying in the range 18 mm to 24 mm.

7. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, characterized in that the supply (12) of cleansing liquid
15 is carried out at a high rate lying in the range 0.5 L/m and 1 L/m.

8. An apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that the inner tube (3) and the strainer (5) are embodied
20 in a flexible plastics material, the outer tube in malleable material.

9. An apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that mechanical sweeping device is constituted by one or
25 more rows of annular brushes (7).

10. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the suction means comprise a tube connected to a wall vacuum source and opening out laterally into the
30 cylindrical irrigation body at a control handle.

11. An apparatus according to claim 11, characterized in that the irrigation, loosening and suction means are operated at will via mutually-independent voluntary
35 controls.

12. An apparatus according to claim 11, characterized in that the irrigation means comprise a foot-operated control pedal, the loosening means comprise an operating handle with switch (18) to be maintained in a blocked position and the suction means comprise an operating handle with vent closure (15).

13. An apparatus according to claim 12, characterized in that it is provided with a pressurized safety appliance (21) in the event forced irrigation is required, thereby ensuring that both coaxial tubes are put to atmospheric pressure.